

EIGHTH (2d.)

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

TRUSTEES

— OF —

The Peabody Institute,

— OF —

DANVERS.

SOUTH DANVERS:

PRINTED BY CHARLES D. HOWARD, ALLEN'S BUILDING,
1861.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

The Trustees of the Peabody Institute, in presenting their Annual Report, beg leave to call particular attention to the accompanying report of their Treasurer, and also to the full and detailed reports of the President and Sub-Committees of the Lyceum and Library Committee, which are herewith submitted.

These documents are of such a character, so faithful and extended, as to preclude, as in former years, the necessity on the part of the Trustees of making any suggestions, except a few words by way of introduction.

Upon an examination of them, it will be seen that the financial affairs of the Institute have, as heretofore, been administered with fidelity, economy and skill ; that several important and much needed improvements have been made in and about the building ; and that the zeal to participate in the privileges, and to enjoy the benefits, of the Institute, is not only unabated, but continues steadily to increase ; while its means of usefulness, and its efficient power as an instrumentality for the spread of knowledge and morality, widen and expand with each passing year.

Not alone those having the more immediate charge and direct management of its affairs, but all classes of our people seem moved by one common and earnest desire to advance the great objects, and promote the noble ends, of its founder ; and thus, while they and those who shall come after them enjoy its blessings, to evince, in this most expressive of all ways, their gratitude for his bounty, and to make the institution which he has planted in their midst, a fitting and worthy monument to transmit his honored name to after times.

Let us trust that this same spirit will continue to animate all hearts ; that we shall ever foster and cherish this noble foundation with singleness and purity of purpose ; that, more especially, in guarding its interests and in selecting its custodians, we shall permit no sordid or selfish motives, no party bias or personal prejudice, to influence our conduct or warp our judgment. Let this, at least, be sacred neutral ground, where no passion or strife shall enter, but where we shall all meet in peace and good will, with one wish and one aim, to honor our benefactor, to benefit ourselves, and to bless our fellow-men.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Board of Trustees,

ALFRED A. ABBOTT, *Chairman.*

South Danvers, March 11, 1861.

Report of the Lyceum and Library Committee.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE :

In conformity with the Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Institute, I herewith present the Annual Report of the Lyceum and Library Committee for the year ending February, 1861.

The doings of the Committee are so fully and accurately presented by the various sub-committees having charge of the different departments, as to leave but little opportunity to add anything to their detailed and interesting statements. I would remark, however, that it cannot fail to impress the mind of a constant observer of the operations of the library, with its constantly increasing number of books, and the avidity with which the younger portion of the population embrace the opportunity of reading and storing the mind with knowledge, of the incalculable importance of the institution to this community. It is a fountain which fertilizes every nook and corner of our town with substantial treasures, calculated to benefit every individual who partakes of its influence, and thereby imparts an intellectual improvement which must be seen and felt. The clergyman, the lawyer, the physician, the farmer, the mechanic, the laborer, can each and all find publications peculiarly applicable to their occupation, and in accordance with their taste. In this connection, I will state that the Branch Library at Danvers is under good management, in successful operation, and highly appreciated by the community who are the more immediate recipients of its benefits.

The Lecture Hall is a place of instruction, entertainment and recreation. Here friends and neighbors can weekly meet and cor-

dially greet each other—the aged as well as the young enjoy the opportunity—the smiles of youth and beauty are exchanged, and all spend an hour of pleasurable enjoyment. This grand center of attraction could not well be spared from our midst. It is true that every lecture does not command the same full and crowded attendance—and it may be said that some of the most learned and instructive lectures will often be neglected by a portion of the public, while others of less substance, which are of a popular character, and presented in a more eloquent and impressive manner, will secure the applause of the multitude.

As a constant attendant at the Institute on the days for exchanging books, and other occasions, I have not failed to observe the fidelity with which most of those who have the management of its concerns, in connection with the Lyceum and Library Committee, have performed their duty.

The Librarian is seldom absent from his post, and his natural taste and ability for the position makes it a pleasant duty for him, and agreeable to those who visit the Institute.

The Janitor, who has been connected with the Institute from the start, discharges all his duties in a cheerful, successful, and entirely satisfactory manner to the Committee, the attendants upon the library and lectures, and the public generally.

The Treasurer of the Lyceum and Library Committee has rendered valuable service from the commencement of our organization. His accounts are always kept and reported in the best possible manner.

The Lecture Committee have a responsible duty to perform, which they do not fail to accomplish according to the best information to be obtained, and with a sincere desire to please and satisfy the public.

The Library Committee are constantly devoted to their duties of selecting and procuring the most desirable publications for the instruction and entertainment of all classes of the reading public.

The joint Committee on the Buildings and Grounds have placed an additional furnace in the basement for the purpose of warming the Library room. Its operation has been successful, and has imparted much comfort during the chilling blasts of the present month. They have also, the past season, bestowed more than their usual

attention to the grounds around the Institute, which will soon present an attractive and ornamental appearance.

In conclusion, it may be truly said that the success and popularity of the Institute, from the laying of the corner-stone of the building to the present moment, has been constantly increasing. Its expenditures have been kept within its income. Its management has become systematized and harmonious. Its usefulness cannot be calculated by money, the distant future alone will disclose its inestimable importance to those who enjoy its privileges.

Until very recently we had supposed that we should, the present year, have an opportunity to meet its distinguished founder face to face, but we have recently learned, (and we say it with deep regret,) that his visit to his native land, and the home of his ancestors and benefactions, has been postponed for the present. But it is gratifying to know his health is good, and that his usual success in business was attending him.

R. S. DANIELS,

President of the Lyceum and Library Committee.

South Danvers, February 15, 1861.

Report of the Library Committee.

TO THE LYCEUM AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

This report is submitted, according to the requirements of our By-Laws, although its necessity seems to have been anticipated by the report of the Librarian, which embraces nearly all the facts in relation to the Library which will be looked for in this, and which are necessary in making the report of the general Committee.

For the number of books purchased, the prices of the same, the number of books in the Library, the number of borrowers, and

other details which are under the direct supervision of the Librarian, we refer the Committee to the Librarian's report.

The general policy of the Committee in the purchase of books has been to select standard works of History, Philosophy and Science, and yet to procure such popular and current literature of real value as seemed to be demanded by the wants of the community. Quite a valuable addition has been made in works on Agriculture and Horticulture, both scientific and practical. This department has hitherto been neglected, but we believe the interests of this community require that it be replenished with all the new standard works.

The Librarian's report calls attention to the many dilapidated books on the shelves. This fact assumes more importance each year, as the question arises what ones shall be renewed. A popular book wears out as fast as a popular man, but with this difference, that a duplicate of the former is called for, while of the latter rarely. We think that in these renewals much discrimination is necessary—duplicates of many popular works not being required, while those of standard Novels, Biographies and Travels, should be purchased.

We are able to report that the interest in the Library is, on the whole, growing, although the books of record may show a slight diminution in the number taken from the shelves the past year. It is a fact that a better class of books is read than when the Library was first opened to the public; and we believe that the advantages of the Library are held in greater estimation by the community than those of the Lyceum.

The above report is respectfully submitted,

By the Committee,

BENJ. C. PERKINS, *Chairman.*

Librarian's Report.

TO THE LYCEUM AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE.

Gentlemen:—In obedience to the By-Laws of the Committee, which require that the Librarian shall, annually, on or before the first Monday in February, make a "Report of all such matters relating to the condition or wants of the Library as shall come under his special observation," he herewith submits his Report for the past year.

The present number of books in the Library is 7564, an increase since last year's report of 467. Of this number, 128 were gifts from the following persons and associations:—

George Peabody, of London.....	4 vols.
Henry F. Durant, of Boston.....	1 "
W. T. Palmer.....	1 "
Young Men's Association, Troy, N. Y.....	1 "
Middlesex Mechanic Association, Lowell.....	1 "
Alonzo P. Phillips.....	1 "
Benj. F. Southwick.....	4 "
Jos. Warren Upton.....	1 "
John V. Stevens.....	1 "
Smithsonian Institution, Washington.....	1 "
Martyn Paine, New York.....	1 "
Edwin Lamson.....	2 "
Essex Institute, Salem.....	2 "
F. Poole.....	3 "
U. S. Department of the Interior.....	104 "

The books received from the Department of the Interior, at Washington, are a set of Documents, substantially bound, of the First Session of the 35th Congress, in 55 volumes. Also a set, recently received, of Documents of the same Congress, in 49 volumes. The receipt of these books has been duly acknowledged to the Government. It should be here remarked that about one-third of all the books received from this source are duplicates, and are liable to be removed at the pleasure of the Representative in Congress from this District.

The whole number of borrowers now on the book of signatures is 2951, being an increase from the same time last year, of 211. The number of volumes delivered during the year ending in July, was 20,024, which is less than the number delivered the two preceding years. All these were returned except 9 volumes. The average cost of the books purchased the last year has been \$1.06 per volume.

The condition of the books in the Library was found to be generally good, except those which are of a popular character, and constantly in circulation. It has been deemed necessary to withdraw many from circulation, on account of their dilapidated condition. There are many yet on the shelves which are too imperfect to go out, although many borrowers are glad to obtain them. Perhaps it would be well, at the next annual examination, to purge the Library of these fragments of books, and renew so many of them as are worthy of use and preservation.

In order to effect completeness in the several departments of the Library, the policy has been continued of special appropriations to this object. Additions this year have been made of books in the various departments of Science, and works on Agriculture and Horticulture.

Owing to the crowded state of the shelves in the Library Room, the Committee authorized the erection of a new case outside of the railing, capable of holding about 300 average volumes. These additional shelves have been filled, and the relief has been found but temporary. This subject will need the early attention of the Committee.

The foregoing statement, that the condition of the books in the Library is generally good, does not apply to those which are most in demand by borrowers. Many of these are very imperfect from loss of leaves, generally at the beginning or end of the volumes. Some

of them have been so many times bound over that the whole margins have disappeared. Not a few of them are so soiled and defaced as to be hardly fit to send into well ordered families, and some are still further defaced by the bad habit of some thoughtless persons who write in them with pencils. I am happy to say, that so far as I can judge from recollection of the condition of the books last year, the evil is diminishing, and it is earnestly to be wished that it may be wholly eradicated. It is hardly to be expected that popular works, which have been in constant use for several years, will not shew the effects of such usage, even while in careful hands. The wonder is, that after such indiscriminate use by all classes of society, they are no worse. The accidental circumstance of the state of the weather, on Library days, has much to do with the condition of the books. One stormy or rainy day does more for their injury than a month of fine weather.

The Fifth Supplementary Catalogue has just been printed, containing the titles of about 500 volumes. It will not be many years before it may be expedient to have a new Catalogue, and also a new arrangement of the Library. There are many considerations which make this desirable; but as it must be attended with considerable expense, it will have to be deferred as long as possible, without detriment to the true interests of the Library.

With a view of showing the classification of books received the past year, the following table is submitted. Those classed as "Miscellaneous," might, many of them, have been classified with the others, and among those thus classified, are some which are not of such a decided character as to make it certain to which class they properly belong:

Of Fiction.....	66 vols.
Science and Art.....	61 "
History and Biography.....	73 "
Agriculture and Horticulture.....	48 "
Travels and Explorations.....	18 "
Essays and Poems.....	73 "
Periodicals.....	17 "
Political and Statistical.....	29 "
Miscellaneous	82 "

The Library Room has been made more comfortable by the introduction of a new furnace, the entire heat from which is intended for

the room. The old furnace, although sufficient for the hall, was found to be entirely insufficient to heat the Library Room in very inclement weather, and even on moderately cold days, when the hall has needed to be warmed at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH POOLE, *Librarian.*

Peabody Institute, Feb. 4, 1861.

Report of the Committee on Lectures.

The Committee on Lectures would report that they did not, the past year, renew the experiment of a Summer Course, which was tried the previous season, and on which they then reported favorably. They are inclined to think that there are permanent obstacles to the general usefulness of Summer lectures, and would to this extent modify the opinion previously expressed by them on that subject.

The Seventh Annual Course of Free Lectures at the Hall of the Institute, commenced Nov. 13, 1860, and is expected to embrace fourteen lectures, probably closing Feb. 26, 1861.

After the introductory lecture, a course of six were delivered by Dr. Benjamin A. Gould. Dr. Gould was engaged by the Committee to prepare for us a series of six lectures on Astronomy, with the understanding that, should the pressure of other engagements make it necessary, he might substitute, in part, the lectures delivered by him before the Smithsonian Institution, the last season, on the Theory of Probabilities. The last two lectures of his course were on the latter subject. Of the lectures of Dr. Gould considered as scientific efforts, the Committee are able to speak in terms of the highest respect. But frankness obliges them to confess that his subjects were discussed from a standpoint rather above the average

comprehension and attainments of a popular audience. A more elementary course, even at the risk of seeming to copy servilely the text-books, would probably have suited better the wants of our people. We were invited to the consideration of the constitution of the distant stellar universe, while, as yet, we had but an imperfect knowledge of the relations of our own planet to the sun and other members of the solar system. It is obviously difficult for gentlemen of real attainments in science, to bring their discussions of such subjects down to the level of the common mind; and if their public efforts have been confined to learned societies, and in the presence of their peers, the chances are materially increased that they will fail before the Lyceum. Indeed, the number of those who possess the happy faculty of excelling in both capacities, is small. In the one place, the *manner* of presenting scientific truth may be said to be of very little importance; in the other, it is *everything*.

The Committee, nevertheless, feel encouraged, on the whole, to persevere in their efforts to popularize science through the medium of the lectures, and, to that end, to continue the system which was commenced by them two years ago.

This leads them to speak of the principles which have hitherto guided them in making up their courses of lectures. And first, they recognize that this department of the Institute is as fully subject as the other to the great duty imposed upon it by its founder, viz: of contributing a share of effort in the noble cause of popular education; but they do not consider it practicable to present a complete treatise on any subject in a series of lectures. Their true office is rather to explore the ground, and point out the way to arrive at truth. The oft repeated maxim that there is no royal road to learning, has lost none of its force, and much individual effort will always be necessary to make any valuable attainments in science. The Committee make these remarks to dispel the idea, which some seem to entertain, that they only need to sit still and be talked into becoming philosophers. Such are doomed to be disappointed. Fortunately our institution presents rare facilities to those whose zeal for self-improvement becomes in any manner excited. In our well selected Library will be found works on almost all topics within the ordinary range of investigation—enough, at least, to exhaust both the time and patience of most readers. If our courses of lectures shall prove instrumental in inducing readers to resort to the better *classes* of works in the Library, the Committee will feel, in a

measure, repaid for much trouble and vexation to which they are subjected in the management of their department of the Institute.

Next in importance to the *courses*, in the view of the Committee, are the *miscellaneous lectures*, and it is their aim to make them sufficiently varied to suit the tastes of all our citizens. They will say, however, that they have no sympathy with a certain morbid craving for excitement, which is so much pandered to of late by *sensation* lecturers, tending to bring the whole system into disrepute; and they have always avoided those who, on the strength of reputations which rest on so factitious a basis, demand for their performances extravagant prices, that would quickly exhaust our funds, without leaving us anything that we could call a consideration in return. The Committee would not be understood as censuring, indiscriminately, all who charge high fees for their services; but in making their own selections, they would have some further recommendation than the mere power of drawing a crowd. They are quite willing and even anxious that the lectures should become a source of entertainment, but they do not feel justified in making that the leading object.

During the past year, the defects in the lighting of the Hall have been remedied by the addition of a beautiful chandelier, contributing much to the appearance of the room and the comfort of the audience.

The expenses for lectures the present season are

For lecturers.....	\$491 00
Incidental expenses by estimation.....	30 00
Total.....	\$521 00

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS M. STIMPSON, *Chairman.*

South Danvers, Feb. 18, 1861.

Branch Library.

TO THE LYCEUM AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE:

Gentlemen :—The following is a summary of the operations of the “Branch Library” for the past year :

Number of borrowers' names added to the Ledger.....	138
Whole number of names on the Ledger.....	1,744
Number of volumes delivered during the year.....	12,226
Average number of volumes delivered per week during the time the Library has been open.....	249
Number of volumes added to the Library.....	177
Do. do. del'd since opening of Library Sept. 5, 1857..	51,429
Number of volumes bound or re-bound during the year,	63

Only seven books are known or supposed to have been lost from the commencement.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Branch Library Committee,

WILLIAM L. WESTON.

Danvers, February 11, 1861.

Dr. Library and Lyceum Com. in acct. with G. A. Osborne, T. Cr.

1860.	1860.	
Feb 28, To paid D H Townsend's bill,	\$5 62	Febru'y By balance, \$386 00
Mar 1, Rev Mr Milburn and expenses,	60 00	May 13, " draft on the Trustees, 500 00
" 12, J. Perley, Jr., binding,	5 17	Oct. 3, By draft on the Trustees, 800 00
" 14, L. Chandler, periodicals,	32 65	
" 28, J. B. Battis, books,	12 00	
April 3, Gas bill, ending April 1,	27 65	1861.
" 6, C. B. Taggard, services,	6 37	Jan. 3, By draft on the Trustees, 600 00
" 6, C. H. Brooks, do	6 00	
" 6, E. W. Proctor, do	3 12	
" 6, G. H. Clark, do	2 00	
" 12, S. F. Reed, services constable,	15 00	
" 30, Lecture Committee bill,	1 50	
" 30, Charles Simonds' bill,	5 00	
" 30, Washington Simonds' bill,	22 25	
June 14, J. H. Teague's bill,	106 00	
July 2, F. Poole, 1 qr. salary to May 1,	75 00	
" 2, Abraham H. Bond's bill,	3 37	
Aug 2, Gas bill ending July 1,	7 13	
" 20, F Poole, 1 qr. sal'y end'g Aug 1	87 50	
" 20, George H Clark, services,	2 25	
" 20, George H Morse, bill, seal press,	9 00	
" 20, J. L. Waterman, do	2 25	
" 20, E. Hammond, do	1 00	
" 20, C. H. Brooks, do	5 57	
" 20, C. D. Howard, do	17 85	
Oct. 3, Gas bill ending October 1,	7 13	
" 5, W. D. Ticknor & Co., bill,	511 72	
Nov 14, Dr. Holland's bill,	50 00	
" 22, F. Poole, qr. salary end. Nov 1,	87 50	
" 22, C. H. Brooks' bill,	2 50	
" 26, J. Reynolds, books,	45 50	
" 30, James Campbell,	19 65	
" 30, Little, Brown & Co.,	8 80	
" 30, Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co.,	71 10	
" 30, J. C. Abbott's bill,	1 52	
" 30, John Hendley, do	1 25	
" 30, George H. Morse, seal,	1 25	
Dec. 6, J H Teague, ser. end. Nov. 1, '60,	81 11	
" 13, E. Hammond's bill,	2 00	
1861.		
Jan. 3, Gas bill ending January 1,	\$29 14	
" 3, John P. Fernald's bill,	7 25	
" 3, John L. Waterman,	9 00	
" 8, Dr. B. A. Gould, 6 lectures,	225 00	
" 15, Professor Brown,	25 00	
" 22, W. W. Sylvester,	25 00	
" 23, L. Chandler & Co., bill,	52 21	
" 28, Postage, bill,	6 44	
" 28, D. H. Townsend, bill,	7 50	
" 28, D. B. Brooks & Bro., stationery,	3 41	
" 28, S. B Ives, binding,	54 34	
" 29, Rev. Mr. Hepworth, lecture,	25 00	
" 31, W. D. Ticknor & Co.,	129 16	
Feb. 5, Rev. Mr. Milburn,	61 00	
Balance,	214 28	
	\$2283 00	
		\$2286 00
		By balance, 214 28
		" fines, 27 79
		" catalogues, 3 37

South Danvers, Feb., 1861.

G. A. OSBORNE, Treas'r.

Trustees of Peabody Institute in account with Franklin Osborn.

1860.

Dr.

March 8,	To paid J. W. Osborn's bill.....	\$65 28
"	Lyceum and Library Committee, draft (Branch)....	210 00
May 18,	Thomas Pinnock's bill.....	6 77
"	bill Trees.....	14 00
"	E. H. Staten's bill.....	21 38
"	Aqueduct bills.....	8 00
"	S. Walker & Co., bill Trees.....	37 50
"	Lyceum and Library Committee, draft.....	500 00
July 18,	E. H. Staten's bill, pipe and gas fixtures.....	87 40
Sept 17,	Whipple & Friend's bill.....	2 87
"	Thomas Chadburn's bill.....	4 50
"	Whipple & Friend's bill.....	21 00
"	" " " ".....	12 79
Oct'r 3,	Lyceum and Library Committee, draft.....	800 00
Nov. 15,	" " " " (Branch)....	210 00
"	bill Whitewashing.....	3 75
"	D. Woodbury's bill.....	2 70
"	L. W. Elliot's bill.....	12 00
"	Aqueduct bill.....	8 00
Dec. 10,	E. Tarbell & Son's bill.....	139 54

1861.

Jan'y 3,	Lyceum and Library Committee, draft.....	600 00
21,	Insurance.....	61 88
Feb. 18,	Clark & Giddings' bill.....	62 25
"	Whipple & Friend's bill.....	1 90
"	Aqueduct bill.....	37
"	Samuel Trask's bill.....	17 92
"	E. Gerry's bill.....	1 75
	Balance.....	210 66—3,124 21

1860.

Cr.

Febru'y,	By Balance.....	331 34
27,	" 6 mos. int. on town Danvers note, (Branch)....	210 00
April 4,	" 6 mos. int. on town South Danvers note.....	210 00
"	" Dividend Warren Bank.....	12 00
May 18,	" Rents, &c., ending April.....	137 08
"	" 6 mos. int. on town South Danvers note.....	90 00
July 6,	" July payment of Mr. Peabody.....	600 00
18,	" Rents, &c., ending July.....	125 50
Aug 27,	" 6 mos. int. on town Danvers note (Branch)....	210 00
Nov 15,	" 6 mos. int. on town South Danvers note.....	210 00
"	" Rents, &c., ending October.....	142 67

1861.

Jan'y 2,	" January payment of Mr. Peabody.....	600 00
"	" Interest on town South Danvers note.....	90 00
Feb. 18,	" Rents, &c., ending January.....	135 62
"	" Use of Hall.....	20 00—3,124 21
	By Balance.....	210 66

FRANKLIN OSBORN, *Treasurer.*

South Danvers, February 23, 1861.

Branch Library.*Dr. Library and Lyceum Com. in acct. with G. A. Osborne, T. Cr.*

1860		1860.	
Feb. 25,	To paid N. Hill's bill,	\$65 26	Feb'y, By Balance, \$74 94
May 25,	Elliot & White's bill,	3 50	Mch 1, Draft on Treas'r, 210 00
	" Williams & Everett's bill,	35 00	Oct 20, Draft on Treas'r, 210 00
June 19,	N. Hill's bill,	50 56	
Aug. 20,	W. D. Ticknor & Co.'s bill,	88 79	
	" N. Hill's bill,	29 15	
	30, Elliot & White's bill,	3 50	
Oct. 20,	N. Hill's bill,	71 54	
	" Insurance bill,	15 00	
	20, W. D. Ticknor & Co.'s bill,	46 23	
Dec. 22,	Elliot & White's bill,	3 50	
	" Danvers Gas Co.'s bill,	36 48	
1861.			
Jan. 12,	Gas bill,	5 93	
Feb'y 9,	L. Chandler & Co.,	17 50	
	" Danvers Gas Company.	1 22	
	Balance,	21 68	<u>\$494 94</u>
		\$494 94	Feb'y, By Balance, \$21 68
			G. A. OSBORNE, Treasurer.

South Danvers, February, 1861.

SUMMARY STATEMENT.

Books,	\$884 10	Balance,	\$386 00
Lectures,	499 75	Draft on Trustees,	1,900 00
Librarian and his Assistants,	299 48		
Teague,	187 11		
Gas,	71 07		
Express hire,	13 12		
Binding,	59 51		
Printing,	17 85		
Postage and Stationery,	9 85		
Miscellaneous,	29 88		
Balance,	214 28		<u>\$2,286 00</u>
	\$2,286 00	By Balance,	\$214 28